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MEGA CITY 909

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THIS PLACE IS SO FAMILIAR.

IT'S LIKE I'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE, NOT IN REAL LIFE, BUT IN A DREAM OR A VISION—I CAN'T REALLY EXPLAIN IT, BUT IT JUST FEELS... RIGHT.



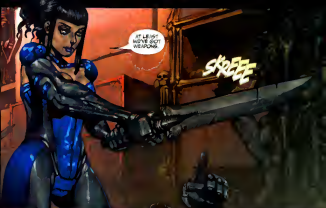
IT SHOULD. THIS IS A PLACE OF DEATH, AND DEATH IS OUR BUSINESS.

KILL ENOUGH AND IT BECOMES PART OF YOU. IT GETS BURNED INTO YOUR SOUL.

SO YOU'RE SAYING JAPANESE JAPPED US INTO THE UNDERWORLD?

SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

CORRECT.







THIS SPOT
HELL, IT'S TOO
ORDERLY. TOO
MUCH LIKE OUR
OWN WORLD.

OUR WORLD?
FUCK! BACK HOME
I THOUGHT STARCH
POPPERS WERE
PRETTY TALK ON
THE GROUND.

SOME
CULTURES BELIEVE
THAT WHEN A PERSON DIES
THEIR SPIRIT GOES TO A SORT OF
IN BETWEEN REALM, NOT QUITE
THE REAL WORLD, BUT NOT
QUITE THE AFTERLIFE EITHER.
A PLACE WHERE SOULS
ARE PURGED.

THOSE AREN'T
DEMONS, THEY'RE
CORRUPT SPIRITS, AND
WE'RE NOT IN HELL.
WE'RE IN LIMBO
PURGATORY.

PURGATORY
ISN'T ANY
DEAD.

YOU SAY
THAT LIKE
IT'S A BAD
THING.

AREN'T
IT RIGHT
IS.

ACTIVATE
YOUR MUSCLE
ADAPTORS.
MAX THEM
OUT.



YOU KNOW
SOMEONE THOSE
KILLER ROBOTS
DON'T LOOK
SO BAD.

AREN'T
BOTH, RIGHT?
A BARE.

800













JESSE, WAIT!

BACK! THIS ONE IS TRAITOR, A POWERFUL ONE! HE'S GOING TO KILL YOU! WAIT!



STOP!

WE DIDN'T COME HERE TO FIGHT!

YOU SAY THERE'S NO WAY OUT OF THIS PLACE, AND MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT, BUT AT LEAST LET US LOOK. IF WE FIND ONE, WE LEAVE AND YOU NEVER SEE US AGAIN. IF WE DON'T, WELL, WE'LL BURN THAT BRIDGE WHEN WE COME TO IT.



WHY SHOULD I TRUST YOU?

BECAUSE WE'RE THE SAME. WE BOTH HUNT AND KILL MONSTERS TO KEEP OUR WORLD SAFE. WE JUST HAPPEN TO DEFINE "MONSTER" A LITTLE DIFFERENTLY.

THERE IS TRUTH IN WHAT YOU SAY, BUT PEACE MUST COME AT A PRICE.

THE YOUNG ONE DISCOVERED THE GOVERNMENT'S SECRET AND YOU MAY GO.

NO, HOOK STAYS WITH US.

THEN THERE CAN BE NO TRUCE.

THERE CAN BE ONLY WAR.



AM I DEAD?

NO.

NO, THAT
WOULDN'T BE TOO
BROAD. HE MIGHT
WALK IT OFF FOR ME.

JASMINE.

FOSTER WITH THE
DISCREETMENT.

WHAT'S
YOUR NAME, BOIT?

FROM.

OF
COURSE, THEN
YOU'LL HAVE
HEARD OF THE
HELLBOARDS' TEST.



EVERYONE
HAS. THEY WERE
TOP LEVEL BLACK
OPS, ASSASSINATION
SQUADS, SPYWORK
BUT AFTER THE WAR,
THE UNIT WAS
DISBANDED.

THEY'RE
GONE.

GONE, BUT
NOT FORGOTTEN.
THERE WILL ALWAYS
BE A PLACE FOR MEN
WILLING TO DO
ANYTHING. JASMINE
ALWAYS.

WHEN I
INFORMED CAPITAL
I NEEDED SOMEONE
TO KILL KUBARKO,
THEY SENT ONE OF
THE HELLBOARDS
TO ME.

THE NAME
WAS KUBARK.

JAX ARMIN.

HE WAS FIRST



UNCLIPPING



AND MINELY EFFICIENT



A TRUE PROFESSIONAL



THE SORT OF MAN
YOU WANT AS YOUR ALLY
NOT YOUR ENEMY

GO AFTER HE
MURDERED MARTIN
I HATE HIM





AND THEN IT STARTED.
SYSTEM MALFUNCTIONS,
DISK FAILURES, LOST DATA
STREAMS, CORRUPTED
FILES. EVERYTHING THAT
COULD GO WRONG, DID.

I KNOW NOW THAT
KUBANASHI'S ETHICAL
DILEMMA WAS BANNED ALL
THE WAY, BUT AT THE TIME
I HAD NO IDEA.

AND BEEN WIGHT MARTIN'S
ONLY TARGET. STRANGE THINGS
STARTED HAPPENING TO THE
GOVERNMENT'S SYSTEMS AS
WELL. FOR A TIME, THEY CALLED
UP ALMOST EVERY ONE POSSIBLE
REASON FOR HELP OR ADVICE.

THEN THEY JUST
STOPPED.

NONE OF MY CONTACTS
IN CAPITAL ESTABLISHED MY
CALLS. IT WAS LIKE
THEY'D VANISHED FROM
THE FACE OF THE EARTH.

OR I HAD.

I DECIDED HAD TO
CONTACT HIS OLD
EMPLOYER AND FIND OUT
WHAT WAS GOING ON. I
NEEDED INFORMATION.

BUT HE REFUSED.

HE'D DISAPPEARED BEFORE
THE EXPLOSION, BUT THE
LAST THING HE TOLD ME
STILL BURNS IN MY BACK.

"THE GOVERNMENT MAY MAKE
MISTAKES, BUT THEY DON'T MAKE THEM
FOR LONG. THEY FIX WHAT'S BROKEN,
EVEN IF THE COST IS FOR SOME
WORDS THAN THE DISEASE."

AND I WONDER IF THAT'S
WHAT DID ME. I WONDER
IF THAT'S WHY THEY LET
MARTIN OUT.

THAT
YOU'RE SAYING
CAPITAL ALLOWED
KUBANASHI TO
BECOME
THAT THING?

LEFT IN THE
NETS, MARTIN COULD
HAVE EFFECTED THE
WHOLE OF THE EMPIRE.
TWELVE MILLION PEOPLE
WOULD HAVE BEEN AT HIS
MERCY. BUT HE CAN
ONLY DESTROY
ONE CITY.

IS THAT
A SACRIFICE
THEY'RE
WILLING TO
MAKE?

THINK IT
MAY BE.



INZEN



WELL, THAT'S
NOT GOING TO
HAPPEN. I'VE GOT A
MICRO-HAND WITH
THE FLAMING
ASSHOLE'S NAME
ON IT

I'LL BLOW
HIM BACK TO
HELL



THE
CENTRAL
CONTROL-
ROOM?

FLOOR 102.
IF IT'S STILL
THERE



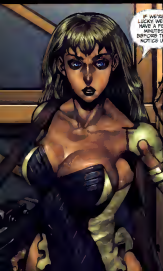
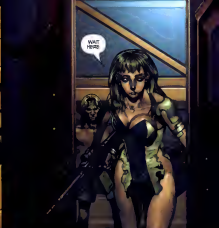
I DON'T
SUPPOSE YOU
HAVE ANY IDEA
WHAT WOULD BE
WAITING FOR ME
UP THERE?



FOR
DESTRUCTION
DEATH

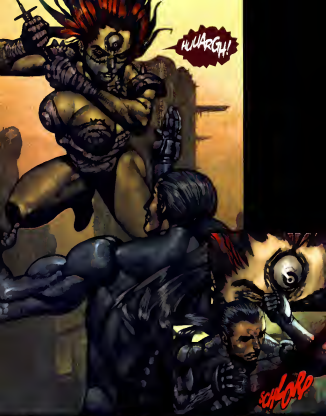


RIGHT.
JUST ANOTHER
DAY AT THE
OFFICE











WOOF! I SHALL
SEE YOUR
OTHER SELF,
FLESHLING!

REVEAL
IT TO
ME!



HOEK!

I'LL KILL
YOU
THREE-EYED
BITCH!

YOUR STRONG
BOON IS IN
CONTROL!





FORCE
IT UP.

WE
ARE.



MY GOD
I HAD NO
IDEA...



FROM THE TEN
YEARS YOU WATCHED
US. YET YOU NEVER
GAINED THE FULL
EXTENT OF OUR
POWER.

BUT WHEN
GOOM YOU
WILL.

WHY GOOM
ALL THE WORLD
WILL COME
BEFORE US.



DON'T JUST
STAND THERE.
ATTACK IT!

ENOUGH!

THE
END
NOW!



TO BE CONTINUED...



Next stop: Purgatory.

Trapped in the chaotic realm between life and death, Yoko, Taro, Ritsuko and Hoek find themselves surrounded by the spirits of the damned. Each vowing for the path to Heaven or Hell.

Just one problem, the members of PHOENIX aren't dead. Which, in a world of demons and ghosts, makes them the monsters.

And speaking of monsters...

Alice in **BUCKLE**, Juuzou is forced to ally herself with the increasingly unstable Dr. Jerome, a man perched on sanity's edge and longing for death.

With Katsuragi's power growing by the second, the duo need to bring him down as soon as possible. But how do you kill a God?

Or two.



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